

Message Text

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R 060753Z FEB 76

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9022

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

FBIS OKINAWA

USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, CH

SUBJECT: ANHWEI SETS AMBITIOUS - YET ATTAINABLE TACHAI TARGETS

1. SUMMARY: A RECENTLY-CONCLUDED PROVINCIAL TACHAI CONFERENCE IN ANHWEI HAS SET FORTH PRODUCTION GOALS FOR 1980 THAT SUGGEST IT IS SEEKING AN AMBITIOUS 5-7 PERCENT ANNUAL GROWTH RATE IN GRAIN OUTPUT OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. THE CONFERENCE ALSO SET UNEXCEPTIONAL AND MODERATE TARGETS FOR RAISING COLLECTIVE INCOME AND MECHANIZATION. END SUMMARY

2. A HOFEI BROADCAST OF THE CONFERENCE, JANUARY 25, ANNOUNCED PRODUCTION GOALS FOR 1980 OF 1000 CTTIES OF GRAIN PER RURAL INHABITANT. ASSUMING A NORMAL (2 PERCENT) ANNUAL GROWTH RATE FROM ANHWEI'S LAST ANNOUNCED POPULATION FIGURES IN 1957, ANHWEI'S RURAL POPULATION WOULD APPEAR TO BE AIMING A TOTAL PRODUCTION OF 20-22 MILLION TONS BY 1980. REQUIRING AN ANNUAL INCREASE OF 5-7 PERCENT OVER ITS ANNOUNCED 1975 OUTPUT OF 15.88 MILLION TONS (RS JANUARY 17, 1976), A PRODUCTION LEVEL IN THE LOWER END OF THIS RANGE APPEARS REASONABLE. ANHWEI HAS CLAIMED ALMOST A 5 PERCENT ANNUAL GRAIN INCREASE

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OVER THE PAST 5 YEARS (HK A-08).

3. OTHER 1980 GOALS WORTH NOTING -- 70 PERCENT MECHANIZATION OF "MAJOR" FARM OPERATIONS AND RAISING THE PRODUCTION OF COMMUNE AND BRIGADE LEVEL INCOME TO 30 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL THREE-LEVEL INCOME -- ARE UNEXCEPTIONAL AND IN KEEPING WITH THE OVERALL MODERATE TONE OF THE CONFERENCE. ACHIEVEMENT OF THE LATTER GOAL WOULD STILL LEAVE ANHWEI APPRECIABLY BEHIND THE 50 PERCENT PROPORTION ASCRIBED TO COMMUNES AND BRIGADES IN RURAL SHANGHAI IN 1974 BY CHANG CHUN-CHIAO (RED FLAG APRIL 1975).

4. THE ANHWEI CONFERENCE ALSO SET A 1980 GOAL FOR THE CREATION OF 50 PERCENT TACHAI-TYPE COUNTIES (4AT A YEAR). SIGNIFICANTLY ABOVE THE ONE THIRD NATIONAL GOAL, ANHWEI JOINS AT LEAST TWO OTHER PROVINCES, KWANGTUNG AND TSINGHAI, IN AIMING FOR HIGHER PERCENTAGES. WHILE THIS COULD SIMPLY REFLECT MORE FAVORABLE CONDITIONS IN THESE PROVINCES, IT ALSO CARRIES A HINT OF BEING FOR APPEARANCE'S SAKE -- AS IF THE HIGHER TACHAI TARGETS GIVE ANHWEI' ECONOMIC GOALS A MORE COMFORTABLE SOCIALIST SETTING.

5. COMMENT: IN FLESHING OUT THE GUIDELINES ESTABLISHED BY THE NATIONAL TACHAI CONFERENCE LAST SEPTEMBER, ANHWEI'S CONFERENCE, ALONG WITH TSINGHAI'S IN DECEMBER (ER 2, HK 903), HAVE SET WHAT SEEM TO BE AMBITIOUS YET NOT UNREALISTIC GOALS. ANHWEI'S 1980 PER CAPITA GRAIN GOAL, FOR EXAMPLE, IS SIGNIFICANTLY LESS THAN THE 1TPP CATTY PER CAPITA MODEL PUT FORWARD IN HUA KUO-FUNG'S TACHAI REPORT.

ALTHOUGH ANHWEI'S 1980 GRAIN TARGET MAY NOT BE APPLICABLE TO OTHER PROVINCES WITH DIFFERING NATURAL CONDITIONS, THE RATE OF GROWTH IT APPARENTLY IMPLIES, HOWEVER, MAY BE MORE REPRESENTATIVE. IF SO, IT PROVIDES A GOOD INDICATION OF WHAT THE PRC LEADERSHIP FEELS IS ATTAINABLE IN AGRICULTURE AND ALSO A STANDARD WITH WHICH TO MEASURE DEVELOPMENT. CROSS

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